

CLA Mission

To protect the interest of the members of this Association in the real property owned by them; to endeavor to maintain the natural level in said lake; to protect against water pollution and unhealthy conditions; to secure adequate protection against fire, theft and pilfering, to secure improved roads leading to and around the lake; to protect and promote good fishing condition in said lake; and for such other purposes as shall be beneficial to the interests of said members and the community.

Winter Cottage Checks by Montcalm Sheriff's Department

Already the docks and watercraft are being pulled, the traffic has slowed down and many cottage owners are preparing to close up for the winter.

Did you know you can have your cottage checked on a regular basis during the winter by the Montcalm County Sheriff's Department? For some extra surveillance of your property, sign-up for house checks at: <http://www.montcalm.org/government384797.asp> or you can email it directly to: mcsheiff@co.montcalm.mi.us.

"Welcome to Crystal Lake" sign installed on the corner of Sidney Rd and Pine Grove Rd. During installation and picture taking, every passing car/golf cart coming up Pine Grove to turn, paused looking and honking with a thumbs up or commented, "I like it!" Thank you Steve Meinhardt for getting the permit, spraying the grass and trimming in the morning before going to work! We have more to do to improve the corner... suggestions welcome!

Crystal Lake Association

Established June 5, 1932 www.crystalonline.org

Association Membership Fee Change

At the annual Crystal Lake Association meeting held on July 18 at the Sailing Club the subject of the annual dues to join the association was a point of discussion. CLA membership dues have been \$35 annually for as long as anyone at the meeting could remember. With the costs in general for the CLA rising (fireworks, postage etc....) and the expanded costs associated with water quality work on the lake, the general membership present at the meeting overwhelming felt it was

time that the membership dues were raised.

With this feedback from the general membership, the CLA board had membership fees as an agenda item at the August Board meeting. After much discussion and consulting the bylaws for proper procedure, an increase to \$45 per year beginning with 2016 membership was approved by the board. While the board realizes that no one likes to see an increase, many items factored into the decision.

Continued on page 3

New Sign - Welcome To Crystal Lake



Located at the intersection of Sydney Road and Pine Grove Road a newly installed Welcome Sign greets visitors and residents to Crystal Lake.

Water Quality Silent Auction A Success

On August 8th 2015, the Crystal Heights Association along with the Crystal Lake Association teamed up for the Crystal Lake Water Quality Initiative with a Silent Auction held with the Car Show and Art Fest. With the help of our local merchants, and a few further out, we were able to raise over \$1000 to put towards our lake. It's a great feeling to belong to a Community that truly cares about Crystal Lake and its future for our friends and family for years to come. We really have a good thing going here.

Board of Directors

2015 - 2016

Board President**Steve Meinhardt**

steve@casair.net

Vice President**Bonnie Kanitz**

kanitzb@msn.com

Treasurer**Nancy Ayres****Secretary****Roxy Eaton****Newsletter Editor:****Bill R. Hepburn****Directors:****Fred Engle****Joe Kopchick****Mike Manning****Kim Morgan****John Rydbeck**

Lake Treatment Update for Invasive Species

After receiving approval at the General Membership meeting in July 2014, the CLA contracted (\$10,000 taken from savings) with Restorative Lake Sciences (RLS) for an assessment of our lake, to include new bottom contour mapping, and to determine the health and status of our lake. This included identifying the locations of Eurasian Milfoil and Starry Stonewort, two highly invasive plant species. RLS also provided assistance in contracting for the right treatment of the lake. In mid-June, 14 acres of Eurasian milfoil and 1 acre of starry stonewort were treated. A follow-up survey was conducted August 10th to determine how effective the treatment was. The news is good, very good! The large invasive plant beds were pretty much eradicated.

The costs for 2015 surveys, water testing and treatment were \$15,000 of which \$7,000 were donated by our members and \$3,000 were raised with the Pig in the Park BBQ, bake sale and two silent auctions fundraisers. However, we were \$5000 short in covering the costs. Membership dues and CLA

savings were used to cover the dollars needed for this year.

What is the future plan? The lake will never be free of invasive species once present, therefore annual surveys each Spring will need to be conducted and applicable treatments, if needed will have to be done to keep invasive species contained and limited. We will continue to encourage support of these programs with donations. However, if donations do not cover costs, we have consensus from the 2015 General Membership meeting to go forward to the Crystal Township Board to request a special assessment district to cover lake treatment costs. We expect future costs to be less in the future, and should consider ourselves lucky compared to surrounding lakes much smaller than Crystal with bigger problems and associated costs. Overall, we can report we have a very healthy lake and with maintenance and annual surveillance, we will continue to be the premier lake in Central Michigan!

CLA Membership**What you get:**

- **Fireworks**
- **Water Quality**
- **Sheriff's Patrol**
- **Goose Roundup**
- **Community Support**
- **Winterfest**
- **Township Report**
- **Lake Association Directory**

Membership is easy – just go to our website and sign up, or mail in your application or call us and we will pick up your application.

Goose Roundup Report

Fred Engle

Last year was a bust. We were ready for the round up and the State cancelled all the relocation of geese. I have called the State and they don't know if we will have the same situation in 2016. To be proactive I would like to get 5-8 people trained to search for eggs and destroy them. There is a 4 hour training in Novi MI that you would have to attend to be able to destroy eggs.

If we can get 5-8 people trained, each person could take extra people out to find the eggs to destroy. We are required to keep records of what was done: get permission from private land owners, list all areas searched, record the number of eggs destroyed, etc. All of this is discussed in the training.

So if there are any people who would like to volunteer to help with this, please call me at 989-560-4857 or email me at fredengle67@gmail.com. The training will be in April 2016. Egg destruction is early May and if permitted the round up is in late June.

Winter Festival - February 13, 2016!

Come and play in the snow, bring your best chili for the Chili Cook-off, do a little ice fishing, show your strength in cutting a hole in the ice, and relax in front of the fire sipping on your favorite beverage! Support the CLA Sponsored Polar Dip! All proceeds go towards the purchase of much needed equipment for our Crystal Township Fire Department.

Route 66 Sets Off Spectacular 2015 4th of July Show



Route 66 Fireworks put on a pyrotechnic extravaganza for the enjoyment of Crystal residents and visitors this past 4th of July. The new contractor, Route 66 Fireworks, produced a longer and more varied display than has been seen in previous years. The CLA received numerous rave reviews about the show. Many commented that this was the “best ever”. Everyone is looking forward to the 2016 show which will be held at 10 p.m. Monday July 4, 2016. Mark your calendars so you don’t miss this exciting show.

Membership News for 2015

Membership Status for 2015: The membership drive resulted in 280 members. Thank you for your generosity in providing funds for the fireworks and water quality programs. We could not do what we do without your support!

Membership Fee Change

Continued from page 2

As noted, general costs to do business have increased for all of us over the years. The cost of the water treatment for the lake was \$15,000 in 2015 and although \$10,000 of that was raised, it still fell \$5000 short of the money needed. The water quality of the lake is not a “one and done treatment.” Recurring annual costs will continue for the foreseeable future although it is anticipated the costs will be somewhat lower in future years. Additionally, an annual fundraising standard for the CLA has been the sale of sky lanterns for use during the July 4th fireworks celebration. This traditionally raised \$1500-\$2000 each year to help defray costs. Due to some recent concerns brought up on the safety (fire hazard) of the lanterns, the CLA will no longer be selling them. Ideas for a new fund raising option will be explored over the winter but to date nothing has been finalized. In conclusion the CLA board believes that the general membership wants to continue with the work needed to keep our lake the beautiful place we all enjoy. An increase in membership dues will help make that happen. Thank you for your continued support!

CLA Membership Application and Donation Form

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Mailing City, State & Zip _____

Crystal Address _____

Contact Phone _____ Email _____

CHECK HERE IF YOU WOULD LIKE FUTURE CORRESPONDENCE VIA EMAIL _____

GO PAPERLESS!

2015 ANNUAL DUES (\$35.00)	\$ _____
FIREWORKS DONATION (2015 TARGET \$9,000)	\$ _____
WATER QUALITY FUND (2015 TARGET \$17,000)	\$ _____
LEGAL DEFENSE FUND	\$ _____
TOTAL	\$ _____

WE NOW ACCEPT PAYPAL, CREDIT CARDS or ACH. Pay to: Crystal Lake Association
Mail To: Crystal Lake Association (CLA) PO Box 307, Crystal MI 48818

Renew online at: <http://www.crystalonline.org/renewonline.htm>

Crystal Lake Association

P.O. Box 307

Crystal, MI 48818

LIKE! Crystal Lake Association
On Facebook Let's be Friends